

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 /056 W
-----071828Z 066608 /45
R 061350Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3249

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 6589

BOMBAY 1029 FOLLOWS, SENT TO NEW DELHI FOR ACTION ON 4 MAY 77.
BEING RPT FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOMBAY 1029

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJ: MADHYA PRADESH PRE-ELECTORAL MOOD

1. ROSENTHAL WAS IN MADHYA PRADESH FROM APRIL 24-29 WHEN HE
VISITED GWALIOR, BHOPAL AND INDORE. WHILE MEMCONS AND BIODATA
ON MAJOR CONTACTS WILL FOLLOW, HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE MADHYA
PRADESH SCENE JUST BEFORE ELECTIONS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
WERE ANNOUNCED IS:

2. THE JANATA PARTY IS ORGANIZED, CONFIDENT AND DETERMINED TO
WIN A HEALTHY MAJORITY OF THE ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES, WHICH
IT MOST CERTAINLY WILL ACCORDING TO BOTH THE ADMINISTRATORS AND
THE POLITICIANS. THE COLLECTOR IN GWALIOR STATED THAT THE
PARTY WOULD DO "VERY WELL, BUT NOT AS WELL AS IN THE PARLIA-
MENTARY ELECTIONS," A VIEW SHARED BY GWALIOR JANATA MP SHEJ-
WALKAR. JANATA MP JAIN (INDORE) ESTIMATED THAT JANATA SHOULD
#GNSISTENTLY TAKEN ONLY 30 TO 40 PERCENT OF
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THE VOTES IN STATE ELECTIONS BUT HAD GOTTEN A MAJORITY OF
THE STATE LEGISLATURE BECAUSE OF A DIVIDED OPPOSITION. UNITY
WAS NOW PRESENT AT THE STATE LEVEL. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS
UNITY, OF WHICH THE 1975 GUJARAT STATE ELECTION WAS THE PROTOTYPE,
WAS ONE OF THE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES WHICH LED TO THE
FORMATION OF JANATA AT THE CENTER AND WILL NOT BE DISSIPATED.
THE JANATA PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR MADHYA PRADESH, WHO

EXPECTS A "BIG WIN BUT NOT A SWEEP," DEFINED WHAT HE CONSIDERED WILL BE THE ELECTORAL ISSUE: "THE CRIMES AT THE CENTER ARE TRANSFERABLE TO THE STATE." HE SAID THE EXCESSES IN MADHYA PRADESH, NOTABLY BY THE POLICE AGAINST RSS LOW-LEVEL CADRE AND IN THE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM, CAN AND WILL BE HELD AGAINST THE STATE CONGRESS GOVERNMENT, WHICH IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MODUS OF IMPLEMENTATION. THEREFORE, THE EMERGENCY WILL BE TREATED AS A LOCAL ISSUE AND TRANSLATED INTO SPECIFIC LOCAL TERMS. HE SAID THAT THE JANATA CADRE WERE IN PLACE AND READY FOR THE ELECTIONS.

3. IN CONTRACT, THE CONGRESSMEN WERE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE SHORT-TERM FUTURE OF THE PARTY. MANY CONGRESSMEN BLAMED THE PARLIAMENTARY ROUT IN MADHYA PRADESH ON "SANJAY AND THE YOUTH CONGRESS," BUT PROFESSED TO THE HOPEFUL THAT THE JANATA GOVERNMENT WOULD COLLAPSE FROM INTERNAL CONTRADICTIONS, "WITHIN 30 MONTHS" ACCORDING TO ONE STATE OFFICIALS. AN INTUC LEADER AND DEFEATED MP CANDIDATE SAID THAT THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS SHOWED THE "SOLID CORE" OF CONGRESS STRENGTH, A STRENGTH THAT WOULD INCREASE "IN TIME."

4. FROM WHAT WAS OBSERVED IN THIS BRIEF TRIP, THE CONGRESS SEEMS CLOSER TO COLLAPSE THAN JANATA. AN UPROARIOUS MEETING IN BHOPAL ON APRIL 28 OF THE MPPCC APPARENTLY WAS FILLED WITH ACCUSATIONS BY RANK AND FILE CONGRESSMEN OF CORRUPTION AT ALL LEVELS IN THE STATE MINISTRY AND THE SHOUTING FOLLOWING S.C. SHUKLA'S SPEECH TO THE STATE COMMITTEE WAS SUFFICIENT TO CAUSE THE CHIEF MINISTER TO DEPART THE PREMISES ALMOST
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IMMEDIATELY.

5. ROSENTHAL FOUND PARTICULARLY ENLIGHTENING THE ATTITUDE OF PERHAPS A HALF DOZEN STATE AND CITY OFFICIALS WITH WHOM HE HAD A PRIVATE DINNER IN INDORE. ALL WERE WELL TO DO BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE AND ALL WERE OVER 60. MOST EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE PRIDE IN THE FACT THAT THEY HAD BEEN JAILED DURING THE PRE-INDEPENDENCE PERIOD AND HAD BEEN LOYAL CONGRESS PARTY WORKERS EVER SINCE. THEY REFERRED WITH SATISFACTION TO THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE CONGRESS ADMINISTRATION THROUGH THE YEARS AND TENDED TO DISMISS THE JANATA PARTY AS A LACK-LUSTER COALITION WHICH COULD NOT SURVIVE AS A UNIFIED ENTITY. THEY BOASTED THAT INDIA CONTINUES AS THE "WORLD'S GREATEST DEMOCRACY" WITH A FREELY ELECTED GOVERNMENT AND AN UNFETTERED PRESS. HOWEVER, THEY COMPLETELY FAILED TO RECOGNIZE THAT CONGRESS BY ITS ACTIONS DURING THE EMERGENCY HAD BLOTTERED THE RECORD. THEY SEEMED TO SHARE A REMOTENESS FROM CURRENT POLITICAL REALITY IN WHICH THE INDIA VOTER HOLDS THE CONGRESS PARTY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BREAK IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. IF THIS UNWILLINGNESS--

OR INABILITY--TO FACE THE FACTS IN COMMON ELSEWHERE IN THE STATE,
THE MADHYA PRADESH CONGRESS PARTY FACES LEAN TIMES INDEED.
COURTNEY

UNQUOTE
SCHNEIDER

NOTE BY OC/T: # PARA 2 AS RECEIVED.

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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